



4600 Giant Springs Rd.
Great Falls, MT 59405

May 28, 2020

Preliminary Public Evaluation Notice

Dear Interested Party: Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks land proposal.

Proposed Project Description

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) will be preparing an Environmental Analysis on a proposal to purchase a conservation easement (CE) in Fergus County, Montana. The proposed CE encompasses ~2,550 acres of deeded lands owned by Keith Glass near Denton. The proposed CE serves as a gateway to the Coffee and Arrow Creek Breaks—one largely inaccessible to the public, that provides excellent mule deer and upland game bird habitat. Elk have also been expanding in this area. A CE on this property will also provide perpetual public access to ~9,000 acres of DNRC and the BLM's Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument lands. Additionally, a CE on the Glass property will keep the property in private ownership while ensuring that the habitat values of the property—native sagebrush grassland juxtaposed with fertile cropland—are maintained. See attached map for additional information.

Project Objectives

The primary objectives of this conservation easement project include:

- Keep the land in private ownership while maintaining agriculture as primary land use,
- Maintain the conservation values of the property
- Provide perpetual, year-round public access to the property and ~9,000 acres of primarily land-locked public lands

Public Involvement and Process

The 30-day scoping period will begin June 1, 2020. Please submit either written or e-mailed comments by July 1, 2020 to:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
c/o Everson Bench public scoping
PO Box 333
Lewistown, MT 59457
sandersen@mt.gov

Comments received from this preliminary evaluation will help FWP determine public interest, identify potential issues that would require further analysis, and may provide insight for refining the proposal or for developing and analyzing one or more alternatives. Upon completion of the preliminary evaluation, FWP will determine next steps, which may include conducting an environmental analysis with additional opportunity for public input or taking no further action on the proposed project.

If you have any questions regarding this project or preliminary evaluation process, please contact Sonja Andersen, area wildlife biologist, at sandersen@mt.gov or 406-366-5266.

Sincerely,


Gary Bertellotti

Region 4 Supervisor
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks
4600 Giant Springs Road
Great Falls, MT 59405
(406) 454-5840
gbertellotti@mt.gov

Map of proposed Everson Bench Conservation Easement.

